

# IS CHURCH EVEN IMPORTANT?

1 TIMOTHY 3:15

Given the previous questions about the historical injustices in the church and the hypocrites that call the church home, it would be rather natural to be skeptical of the value of the church. Is it really that important? Can the church offer me anything I cannot get from personal study and a beautiful walk in creation? Why is a gathering of sinners even necessary?

Yet the church is more than simply a place for people of the same faith to gather once a week. It is a community of encouragement, of correction, of support, and of love. The Bible calls it the bride of Christ and it seems that if you love Christ you would also love his bride.

Even more than that, it is the means by which God has ordained to keep and spread the gospel. It is God's means of bringing salvation, sanctification and support to the world. The church is a gathering of sinners in need of grace, but it is much more than that!

## MEMORY VERSE

### 1 Timothy 3:14b-15

*...I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL READING

<input type="checkbox"/>	MONDAY	<b>Acts 3:42-47, 4:32-37</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TUESDAY	<b>John 17</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WEDNESDAY	<b>Matthew 18:15-20</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	THURSDAY	<b>1 Corinthians 12</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRIDAY	<b>Hebrews 10:19-25</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SATURDAY	<b>1 Timothy 3</b>

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

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[illegible]

## POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

### Understanding the Text

1. How does Paul describe the church in 1 Timothy 3:15?
2. What implications come from the different descriptors?
3. Whose is the church?
4. What is the truth Paul is talking about? (cf. vs. 16)
5. Why is Paul writing this particular portion to Timothy? (vs. 14 and 15)

### Applying the Text

1. This week's reading list should give us some idea what church should look like. Given the content in these verses, when we think of church, what should come to mind?
2. In what ways has the church been a blessing to be a part of?
3. Where has it been a challenge to be a part of the church?
4. The gospel states that we are all sinners prone to do wrong and are in desperate need of a saviour. Even once we turn our eyes towards Christ and trust him, we will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, spend our lives struggling against sin that easily entraps us. Given this context, what makes a healthy church?
5. It is important to be a part of the church for our own growth and for the growth of those around us. Scripture makes it clear the God has gifted each person to positively impact the church and help it thrive. What is your gifting and how are you investing it in the church?